department and save Rs. 1,66,200, instead of losing lakhs, every year. It is a recurring expenditure, without any return, as is clearly seen from the budget.

Agriculture -With regard to this department, I say, we must either end it or mend it. I will take only one item, and that is the Cocoanut Experimental Farm at Vyttila, of which the income is Rs. 1,750 and the expenses run up to Rs. 4,034. I am sure, our President, who owns extensive cocoanut plantations, will not advise anybody to follow this experiment.

Next, 'casual labour' Rs. 7,000 and 'cattle food' Rs. 8,500. We are not in a position to know the nature of this casual labour and there is no data for how many heads of cattle this Rs. 8,500 is intended for.

If the Government will kindly accept some of these suggestions, the budget will not only balance but end in a surplus; and the budget, though not a prosperous one, will not give any room for despair.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Sir,—I have to make a few observations on this budget, not in a spirit of destructive criticism but in a fervent, honest endeavour to see if we could not at least balance the budget. I desire, in the first place, to express our deep sense of gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja who has been pleased to grant us this opportunity to present our views about the administration. Long may His Highness live to see His expectations of this Council realised!

In spite of what the President remarked yesterday, I believe, it is not very difficult to balance our budget. Although our receipts have been increasing from year to year, the annual expenditure has also been increasing more than proportionately, so much so, that we do not stand substantially much better off to-day than how the State stood, thirty years ago. Before dealing with the salient features of the budget, I desire to congratulate the Government in that it has been able to secure as Heads of all the departments, natives, that is to say, our own men. To my knowledge, there

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never was a period in the history of this State when all Departmental Heads were either Cochinites or Indians. This is a matter of great satisfaction indeed. We are also grateful for the introduction of representative institutions on a fairly large scale, as evidenced by the Village Panchayats, Municipalities and Co-operative Institutions. I am, no doubt, sorry that these institutions have not derived their due share of help and consideration at the hands of the Government. I shall confine my remarks to two classes of these institutions, namely, Co-operative Societies and Municipalities.

Mr. Banerji has, in the Administration Report of 1088 M. E., expressed high hopes of the Co-operative movement in the State, and it is singular that, even now, after the lapse of twelve years, the Government has not budgetted more than Rs. 11,300 for expenditure under this head. His Majesty the King Emperor, in a speech delivered a few years ago in England, said "If the system of Co-operation can be introduced and utilised to the full, I foresee a great and glorious future for the agricultural interests of the country". This opinion has found echo throughout India, in the speeches of Their Excellencies, the Viceroy, and the Governors of Madras and Bombay. The Co-operative movement is a great unifying force; it inculcates habits of thrift, and is very useful for developing industries and agriculture; it has, in fact, been considered as a panacea for all existing evils. The little that has been done by the Government for this department has not produced any appreciable results, and more generous help has to be rendered.

In regard to Municipalities, it is a matter of gratification that greater powers have been conferred on them under the present Regulation. But, in point of pecuniary help, suffice it to say, that the Municipality of the constituency which I represent, has received scant attention and consideration at the hands of Government. Trichur is the largest, both in income and population, of all the Municipalities of the State. It stands in need of various improvements, which have not been carried out, for want of money. The Government has been more liberal towards Ernakulam and Cochin. During the term of the previous Chairman of the Trichur Town Council, the Government

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granted a loan of half a lakh of rupees for Town Improvement. Nearly half of it has been repaid in instalments. It so happened that the Town Council was unable to pay up one of the instalments in due time, and, on that account, the Government stopped its annual contribution. The reformed Municipal Council has had to start its work with this load of debt and without the usual annual Governmental help. Of this year's allotment, Trichur gets about six thousand rupees, Ernakulam seven thousand, and Chittur seven thousand eight hundred. Very urgent and costly improvements have to be carried out at Trichur, to make life endurable there. Half doses for a patient are no good, and, unless the Government can find its way to contribute a substantial amount, the poor allotment of six thousand rupees, is hardly worth having.

Let us now see if we should accept a deficit budget. The Finance Member's Explanatory Note shows that the 'Public Works' and 'Education' Departments consume a large portion of the income. In regard to Education, the First Grade College eats up a large slice of the allotment. The receipts from Secondary Schools amount to a lakh and ninety-thousand rupees, and the expenditure to two lakhs and sixty-eight thousand. Government grants to Secondary aided schools amount to Rs. 30,130. There are 731 Primary schools in the State, of which 165 are Government schools, 277 aided and 289, private and unaided. The total collection from these Government schools is Rs. 49,003, and the net cost comes to Rs. 2,35,000. Excluding forests, lakes and rivers, the total area of the State is roughly 750 sq. miles; and we have got 731 Primary schools in all. Education costs the State about nine lakhs net. We cannot afford to spend anything more. We have to concentrate our attention upon Primary education, Technical and Industrial education and possibly on Collegiate education. To my thinking, we can afford to curtail expenditure only in regard to Secondary education. The Government would do well to leave Secondary education to private agencies, as far as possible. Making liberal grants, we might save a lakh of rupees in this direction. We have to economise in the Education Department.

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Expenditure for 'Public Works' tops the list, with fourteen lakhs. Original works proposed may, I think, be safely put off. The expenditure of Rs. 25,000 for the proposed electric installation at Mattancherry, out of State revenue, cannot be justified. Lighting is a matter essentially within the province of the Municipal Council. It is unfair for the Government to make a special contribution of quarter of a lakh of rupees, out of State revenue, for the luxury of putting up electric lights in Mattancherry.

Another item, on which we could usefully retrench, is the Tramway. The Tramway has been a recurring source of expenditure. The Administration Report of 1088 M. E. says that the Tramway was causing the Government great anxiety. Nothing appreciable appears to have been done to allay this anxiety, all these twelve years. According to the original scheme, the concern should have been stopped in 1093 M. E. But we find, instead, the continuance of it, entailing heavy loss, year after year. Last year's income was Rs. 10,000, and expenditure, one lakh and fifty thousand. This year, the budget provides for an expenditure of Rs. 1,79,200, the probable income being Rs. 13,500. Truly, it is bad policy to throw good money after bad. The Tramway can serve no useful purpose hereafter. During the last fifteen years, our valuable Parambikulam forests have been denuded of all valuable timber, with no corresponding gain to the State. Why should we maintain this any longer? Why should we waste a lakh and a half rupees every year?

Let us also cease to waste any more money on the Potteries at Chalakkudi.

The coir-factory at Cherai, is, I think, quite a superfluity. It is no use carrying coals to Newcastle. The people of Cherai are well-versed in the art of coir-making and in the fibre industry, in general.

Another means of reduction is in regard to the establishment charges for the department of 'Rural Sanitation'. Page 54 of the Explanatory Note seems to show that Government itself half-heartedly supports the expenditure. Municipalities and Village Panchayats could very well attend to this work. Irrigation is certainly, within the sphere of the legitimate work of Panchayats.

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It seems to me that considerable reduction can be made under the head of 'Service charges', as the member for Mulankunnattukavu has pointed out. The matter should be properly investigated and scrutinised.

The expenditure in the Excise Department could also be reduced. The Revenue Department costs us only two lakhs and odd, but the Excise Department costs us Rs. 3,13,200. No doubt, Excise Revenue comes to eighteen lakhs, inclusive of five lakhs and odd from salt. In spite of it, I think, the expenditure of over three lakhs is dis-proportionately large.

I am inclined to think that, if retrenchments be effected, more or less, on the lines indicated by me above, it would be possible to have a surplus budget for the ensuing year. Let us not begin with a deficit budget. We could afford to wait and see, if we have gone wrong in effecting these retrenchments.

Travelling allowances of First class officers have also to be reduced. I am informed that First class officers in the Madras Presidency get only one and three-fifths first class fare as travelling allowance and not double First class as in this State.

President.—This is but a recent change.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval (*Trichur*). Yes, Sir, Incidentally, I may observe that the Government ought to have allowed members of this Council, the same scale of allowances as are given to Council members elsewhere. Of course, it is a matter of perfect indifference to me. The excess expenditure would be trifling. I have to thank the Hon'ble Finance Member for his lucid explanatory Note on the Budget. Let me conclude with the hope that the honourable members would present a united front in securing, at least, a balanced budget.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Mr. President, In rising to address this assembly on the occasion of its first business session, it is my first duty to offer my respectful homage to His Highness the Maharaja for the boon which His Highness has been graciously pleased to confer on His Highness' beloved people and by which we, their accredited representatives, are enabled, at last, to take a

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proud and increasing share in the administration of the State. On behalf of the people of my constituency, I emphatically assert our fervent loyalty to our Royal House and look forward to a fortification of that noble sentiment in the hearts of all concerned, by the loving co-operation between the people and His Highness' Government, in all matters which concern the prosperity, contentment and happiness of the public at large without distinction of caste or creed. It is true that the Council, in its present constitution, does not give the people complete powers of self-determination. But I know that, in matters of political reforms, we. in Native States, are not permitted to go in advance of British India, for which the Paramount Power devises and puts into effect constitutional reforms, from time to time. I am not, therefore, one of those who say that what we got is " unsatisfactory and disappointing ". We have got something substantial which we may work to improve and bring up to our ideal in course of time by constitutional methods. Politics, it is said, is a game of " Give and take ". But both sides must be careful to avoid creating an impression that the giving is all on one side and the taking is all on the other. The best and the noblest attitude to adopt when coming to the Council is, of course, one of selfless purpose. No one including the Government should come into the Council with one's own axes to grind or one's own grudges to settle; for such an attitude is bound to end in disastrous results to both the Government and the people. I shall, in contributing my quota to the deliberations of this Council, make an honest endeavour to assume such an attitude of mind and hope, the others also will do so.

Within the very short time that we have had to study the budget, I have not been able to deal with the whole range of matters covered by it. Hence I am enabled to deal with only two or three matters, and, that only in a cursory manner, viz., Education, Medical Services and Chittur Irrigation Systems.

Education—Without touching on the policy of the educational system pursued by the State, I congratulate the Government on the steady improvement and advancement made in Education, especially, the

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